

PRAYER CORNER

Almighty God, as we ask your help
for our brothers and sisters who are ill,
we ask you to help us to be healing people in our time and place.
May your love touch others through us,
and may I help all people to live in peace.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Frances of Assisi

JESUS SPEAKS TO US

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been
baptized and was praying, heaven was opened
and the holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove.
And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with
you I am well pleased."

Luke 3:20-21

January 2nd Collection

Regular:	\$3,610.00
Parish Maintenance:	\$232.00
St. Vincent De Paul:	\$50.00
Mass Intentions:	\$100.00
St. Anne's Candles:	\$47.50
Bricks:	\$300.00
Priest Care Fund:	\$25.00
Social Outreach:	\$100.00
Solemnity of Mary:	\$35.00
Initial Offering:	\$116.00
Online 12/31-1/7:	\$570.00

Thank you so much
for your generosity and support
of our Parish.



OUR MOTHER OF MERCY

Historically African-American Catholic Church—all are welcome!

January 9, 2022



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**Our Mother of Mercy
Catholic Church**

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Fort Worth, TX 76104

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**Christmas: January 9th
Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**

The mystery of Christ's baptism in the Jordan by St John, the Precursor, proposes the contemplation of an already adult Jesus. This mystery is infinitely linked to the Solemnities of the Lord's birth and the Epiphany that we have just celebrated, as in some ways it takes up and represents their significance to us.

At Christmas we have contemplated the human birth of the Word incarnate by the Virgin Mary. In the 4th century, the Fathers of the Church deepened the understanding of the faith with regard to the Christmas mystery in the light of Jesus' Humanity. They spoke of the Incarnation of the Word already working like the 'Christification' of that humanity that he had assumed from His mother. Or put in simpler terms: Jesus is the Christ from the first instant of conception in Mary's spotless womb because He Himself, with His Divine Power, consecrated, anointed and 'Christified' that human nature with which He became incarnate.

In the mystery of the Epiphany, we then meditated on Christ's manifestation to all nations that was represented by the Magi, the wise men from the East, who came to adore the Child.

Now, in the mystery of Christ's Baptism in the Jordan River, we again encounter and represent the truth of the Lord's incarnation and His manifestation as the Christ. Jesus' Baptism is in fact His definitive manifestation as the Messiah or Christ to Israel, and as the Son of the Father to the entire world. Here we find the dimension of the Epiphany which was His manifestation to all nations. The Father's voice from heaven shows that Jesus of Nazareth is the eternal Son and the descent of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove shows the Trinitarian nature of the Christian God. The true and unique

God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, shows Himself in Christ, through Him, with Him and in Him.

The Baptism in the Jordan returns to the great Christmas theme of 'Christification,' Jesus of Nazareth's spiritual anointing, His presentation as the Anointed One par excellence, the Messiah or the One sent by the Father for the salvation of mankind. The Spirit that descended on Jesus shows and seals in an incontrovertible way the 'Christification' of Jesus' humanity that the Word had already fulfilled from the first moment of His miraculous conception by Mary. Jesus, from the very beginning, was always the Lord's Christ, He was always God. Yet, His one, true humanity, that which is perfect in every way, as the Gospel records, constantly grew in natural and supernatural perfection. 'And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and with men' (Lk2:52). In Israel at 30 years of age, one reached full maturity and therefore could become a master. Jesus came of age and the Spirit, descending and remaining on Him, definitively consecrated His whole being as the Christ.

The same Spirit, that descended on the water of the River Jordan wafted over the waters during the first creation (Gen 1:2). Therefore, the Baptism in the Jordan presents yet another truth: that Jesus has started a new creation. He is the second man (1 Cor 15:47) or the last Adam (1 Cor 15:45), that comes to repair the first Adam's guilt. He does this as the Lamb of God that takes away our sins. 'Looking at the events in light of the Cross and Resurrection, the Christian people realized what happened: Jesus loaded the burden of all mankind's guilt upon His shoulders; he bore it down into the depths of the Jordan. He inaugurated his public activity by stepping into the place of sinners' (Joseph Ratzinger, *Jesus of Nazareth*, Bloomsbury 2007, p 18).

Excerpted from the [Congregation for the Clergy](#)

Mass Schedule:

Monday—Friday — 7 a.m.

Saturday — 8 a.m.

Saturday — 5 p.m.

Sunday — 10 a.m.

Holy Day -- see bulletin

**Reconciliation
(Confession):**

Wednesday 6:00 p.m. — 6:50 p.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m. — noon

Saturday 4:00 p.m. — 4:50 p.m.

Office Hours:

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

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FATHER BART'S CORNER

**My sisters and brothers:
St. Joseph**

Sisters and Brothers on December 8, 2021 we ended the year dedicated to St. Joseph. Even though the year of devotion has ended I am strongly encouraging everyone to build up devotion toward St. Joseph.

St. Joseph is the patron saint of the dying because, assuming he died before Jesus' public life, he died with Jesus and Mary close to him, the way we all would like to leave this earth.

Joseph is also patron saint of the Universal Church, families, fathers, expectant mothers (pregnant women), travelers, immigrants, house sellers and buyers, craftsmen, engineers, and working people in general.

He is also the "Terror of demons." In modern times, this title may come as a shock. To faithful Catholics, it may be a bit confusing, given that not even Mary is given this title in Her litany.

Saint Joseph is considered terrifying to the demons: even though he was not God like Jesus, and even though he was not conceived without sin like Mary, he was still beyond the demonic powers. A mere human, one affected by original sin, was still beyond their grasp. God had so sanctified him that he was able to withstand their attacks, and this makes Joseph terrifying to those evil spirits who wish to devour souls in sin. This was particularly important for him as he fulfilled his important mission as head of the Holy Household, and remains so as he protects the household of God which is the Church.

With prayers and love,

Fr. Bart, S..V.D



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Monday, January 10

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

Tuesday, January 11

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

Wednesday, January 12

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

Adoration: 6:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

Confessions: 6:00 p.m.—6:50 p.m.

Thursday, January 13

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

Friday, January 14

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

Adoration: 8:00 a.m.—noon

Confessions: 9:00 a.m.—noon

Saturday, January 15

Live Stream Mass: 8:00 a.m.

Adoration 4:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

Confessions 4:00 p.m.—4:50 p.m.

Mass: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 16

Live Stream Mass: 10:00 a.m.

Weekday Confessions thirty minutes before morning Mass.

Vocation View

Like Jesus, you are called God's beloved. Renew your baptismal commitment and pray for those discerning a call to priesthood or religious life.

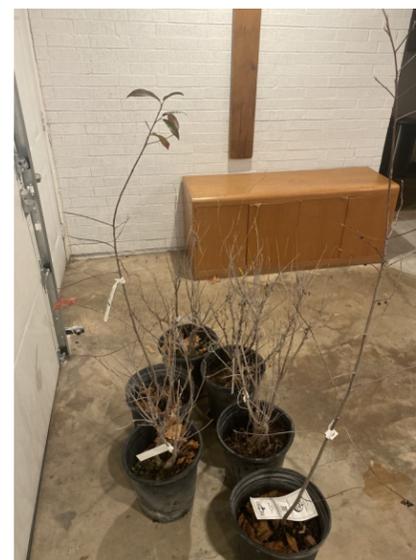
**Divine Word Vocation Office
1-800-553-3321
www.svdvocations.org**

Weekly Readings

- 1/10—1 SM 1:1-8; MK 1:14-20
- 1/11—1 SM 1:9-20; MK 1:21-28
- 1/12—1 SM 3:1-10 and 19-20; MK 1:29-39
- 1/13—1 SM 4:1-11; MK 1:40-45
- 1/14—1 SM 8:4-7 and 10-22a; MK 2:1-12
- 1/15—1 SM 9:1-4, 17-19 and 10:1; MK 2:13-17
- 1/16—IS 62:1-5; 1 COR 12:4-11; JN 2:1-11

PARISH CORNER

With the help of one of our parishioners we received the donation of trees from the City of Fort Worth to support our landscaping projects.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Diary of St Faustina

Is the Holy Spirit calling you to learn more about St Faustina and how to live the Divine Mercy message? Then come and journey with us as we read from "The 52 Weeks With St. Faustina" book along with "The Diary of St Faustina Kowalska". We meet every other Wednesday after mass at 7:45 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. in the Parish Life Center. We begin with prayers for the sick and dying (Chaplet, etc...) Afterwards, we read from and discuss the books as a group. The next meeting is January 19, 2022. All are welcome.

St. Monica Prayer

Friday morning St. Monica prayer group: meets Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Life Center. We are a small group of women praying for our adult children who have left the practice of the Catholic Church. We pray in a very structured way calling upon the intercession of our Blessed Mother, St. Monica and a litany of Saints. If you are a mother aching over fallen away children, you are welcome to join us as we petition heaven together.

Statue of Our Lady of Kibeho

As many of you know this statue was vandalized last summer. One of our daily communicants took the statue home and painstakingly repaired and artfully replaced the various decorative parts that had been damaged. He also cleaned the statue and repainted areas that needed it. Cement was also added to most of the interior of the hollow statue to give it both weight and strength. More cement was added to the base and when the two parts were rejoined, the connection was reinforced with rebar set into the wet cement. Due to these reinforcements, the statue will be much more difficult to move or damage in the future.



Everyone involved in any ministry at any Catholic Church or school is required to attend a Safe and Sacred/Environment class every 2 years. Please create a profile under Virtus.org. and then it will prompt you to sign up for a class. You can pick a location, time and date convenient to your schedule.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHRISTIAN PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

"OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN"

Abba - "Father!"

2778 This power of the Spirit who introduces us to the Lord's Prayer is expressed in the liturgies of East and of West by the beautiful, characteristically Christian expression: *parresia*, straightforward simplicity, filial trust, joyous assurance, humble boldness, the certainty of being loved.²⁹

2779 Before we make our own this first exclamation of the Lord's Prayer, we must humbly cleanse our hearts of certain false images drawn "from this world." Humility makes us recognize that "no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him," that is, "to little children."³⁰ The purification of our hearts has to do with paternal or maternal images, stemming from our personal and cultural history, and influencing our relationship with God. God our Father transcends the categories of the created world. To impose our own ideas in this area "upon him" would be to fabricate idols to adore or pull down. To pray to the Father is to enter into his mystery as he is and as the Son has revealed him to us.

The expression God the Father had never been revealed to anyone. When Moses himself asked God who he was, he heard another name. the Father's name has been revealed to us in the Son, for the name "Son" implies the new name "Father."³¹

²⁹ Cf. Eph 3:12; Heb 3:6; 4:16; 10:19; 1 Jn 2:28; 3:21; 5:14.

³⁰ Mt 11:25-27.

³¹ Tertullian De orat. 3: PL 1, 1155.

"Jesus, I trust in You!"
